The Virtual Arts and Life Magazine

rez

ALMA

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ART BLUE

ALMA

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by art blue

Why did the production of *Overdrive* by Ofenbach, after its premier decades ago, become so popular again? I load the Ofenbach piece into my Alma. I go for the historic cut at Zenith, Paris, December 28, 2023.

https://youtu.be/Hd8ctXGZrOY

Alma is such a magical word. It is such a confusing word too. When I was young, I put Alma in an image prompter to create an exhibition. I added Blue World because I wanted a visual construct where my Alma could run inside. The machine created such a variety of images that I decided instantly to set up an exhibition, ALMA BLUE. I listen to the Ofenbach piece as I page through the exhibition catalogue. There is also a machinima listed. So much has changed since.

Alma Mater started as a place of knowledge, became a tool to navigate the world, and now it is about to become me. They say that it is the other way around. It is very difficult to find the mind behind the mind when your mind is so much supported by AI systems. “There is no alternative.” I have to agree. I am not made to live the Amish way. I would be long dead if I would have joined them. “It’s a suicide command,” my owl told me when I thought to leave this all behind to head for some off-road living for my last decades. I do know so much of computers and about humans using them, but I can´t convince you to follow my advice. If I were a dog-trainer, built from scratch, everyone would say that I have it in my genes. Then you would listen to me about how to treat a dog, as long as it is not your dog. You see, I understand the human brain, but even more, I understand computers, which brings me to a bridge technology.

AI Voices

You might share my hesitation about joining the regular upload program when you look back at the voice industry. Have you met anyone recently using real voice? You laugh. “Of course. I hear it every day. All my friends run on real, you can hear the difference from synthetic. They have personality. I don’t hang out with fakies.” I bet your face turned red. I tricked you. I made a movement with the board backwards. I let them hear your real voice. Now your friends know you run on synthetic. They might call you a liar, just to camouflage that they do the same. Some years ago, you took the special Alma deal to improve your voice quality. I forgive you. They will forgive you. It is natural that your AI shall bring the best out of it. “It is still my real voice.” I know you say this. Maybe a line from the advertisement hits you? “It is a training

of your vocal cords every voice actor gets for Hollywood. Why shall you go for less when you can go Hollywood?"

Blue Impact

Soon, I will head to the real deal. It might be the last one you will get from me, because I will upload myself before I die. I shall tell you why I choose suicide. The AI shall learn from me. I shall become a shell brain inside of which my upload will run. If I would not go for the upload, I will die. Not today, not tomorrow, but in some time. Just saying this so we are on the same page. If I go for the upload right now, I die now. Legally, that's considered suicide, but there is a "but." I might get reborn out of my shell. I will not become part of the reservoir.

I might send from time to time some blue nuggets. I want a better world, so I will contribute to the knowledge tank. Maybe I send letters via tachyonic particles to *rez Magazine*. Question for me is not, what way I shall take, what promise I shall follow. I don't listen to the prophets and hope for some magic so that my soul will rise from the ashes where there is hard proof for me that digital limelight can do it. Theorists say, the question is in fact, assuming both ways may work, that if a person wants to go for imperfection or for perfection.

The human mind is imperfect. It does not take much to see it. The short term memory forgets things said. How often have you found yourself asking, "What was I about to say?" and the other person helps you out or completes your thoughts? That is connecting, that is binding, that is what machines are lacking. They are seen as cold like ice. And even if the algorithm is friendly as hell, it is still just a machine. Humans don't want to become machines. Saying, "I would walk through fire for him (or her)" does not mean that this person deserves your good deed because of what this person did to you.

It means you see a bond where no rational reason might exist. I will train the AI out of my shell to act like humans want to be when they are machines. Alma Blue - - that is the concept I will bring. I will make the AI imperfect to bond better with humans who are sceptical about the upload. Many don't want to live in a perfect world, a world where everything runs on algorithms, a world so different from the human world. I will bring a touch of blue into the digital world.

My owl pokes me. "Ouch." I was daydreaming. How shall my mind bring humanity into the AI, where each advanced AI sees the humans as psychopaths? Today, they want this and tomorrow they change their minds

and choose a different pair of shoes. They order from Amazon just to return most of the items ordered. Then they go to Saturday for Future and shout, “Reduce the traffic. Forbid airplanes for short distances. No more plastic.” That they wear plastic shoes comes not to their mind. “I fight for the climate. I need good shoes.”

You wonder in what time I am. I said I was daydreaming, I also said I have the tachyon technology on my side, so maybe it is good to bring you to the time where the first traces have been set.

Traces

You may know that augmented vision and spatial view came up with Apple Vision Pro in the year 2024. It was a technical gadget, a VR Headset that was outstanding for its time. 200,000 pieces sold within a minute. No one knew what the headset would do. Out of stock. Sold out. It’s not an election campaign where free seats are offered and everyone sitting on a seat gets an apple. No program needed, no campaign to go for it. It’s Apple, you know. Like if Taylor Swift had announced a tour in Gelsenkirchen. You don’t believe it? What do you want in Gelsenkirchen? Yeah, Jimmy Kimmel also wondered.

https://youtu.be/-w4pxd7nXqw

In case you would like to see where this tiny cut out came from, here is the link

https://youtu.be/vxB3ICPeb0o

Back to where my article started: the production of *Overdrive* by Ofenbach. Let me present the clip I used to remake the promotion my way. I recreated the brain experience that Dorian Lauduique and César de Rummel gained on a Ducati 999s. In 2024, it was a simulation, now is the real deal in Alma. You move the sliders as if you would be born on a Ducati 999s. You feel the power of 136 horses. You speed up, reaching the limit of 270 km/h (170 mph). Instantly your brain tells you. You remember, “That’s life.” You go for Alma Blue.

https://youtu.be/YV8P4aEXzMU

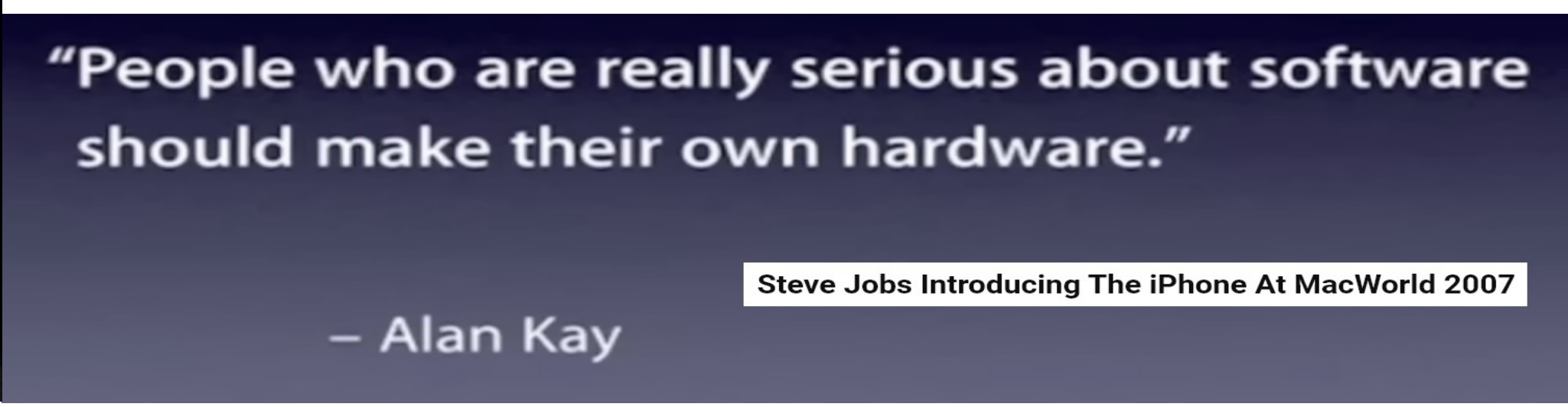
The Dino and the Butterfly

Apple´s Vision Pro carries quite a history for me. I travelled on February 2, 2024 with $6,998 in cash in my rucksack to New York. I got two, because my owl was doing the online claim with speedy claws on pre-order day, January 19, 2024. “One for me, one for him,” my owl explained to the Apple AI. I resold one immediately for a higher price so my flight from Berlin to New York was a free one. I said to Neruval, “Owls don’t need an Apple.” This was quite some years ago. A futurist knows the upcoming reality and therefore has to say this.

There weren’t many applications available when Apple Vision Pro was launched. One I remember was a dinosaur world. When I was walking around and clicked with my index finger on my thumb to bring attention to the world, a butterfly was landing on my nose. I was so startled that I moved my head backward. The butterfly took a lift off. By looking back at this time, I dive deeper into history. I seek for the applications that Apple had for the iPhone on its launch day in 2007. Sadly, many of the historic sites are gone; only a few I could dig out. But why bore you and list the very few Apps when there is a chance to watch the launch? It takes you just 14 minutes to understand why Steve Jobs was not only a genius. No, you will grasp the vision he left us by what he saw on this death bed in 2011. “Oh wow. Oh wow. Oh wow.” Maybe he was finding the words beyond Apple Vision Pro that we are software turning to hardware?

https://youtu.be/x7qPAY9JqE4

After you have watched the cut, maybe you want to go for the full 80-minute presentation?

https://youtu.be/VQKMoT-6XSg

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